

MARCLIA A. LECLERC
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 21, 2014

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Biden,

Earlier this year, I had the honor of attending the President's State of the Union address as a guest of Congressman John B. Larson. As the Mayor of East Hartford Connecticut, home to Pratt & Whitney and other manufacturers, I was thrilled to hear the President announce your new initiative to refocus the nation on training the workforce of tomorrow. In East Hartford, we are working to do just that by strengthening our workforce pipeline through a collaborative effort between academia, private and non-profit sectors. As you continue your work to strengthen workforce training, I want to invite you to visit East Hartford and see these partnerships in action.

In East Hartford, a number of stakeholders have come together for the first time to help meet the current and future needs of Connecticut manufacturing through the development of a pipeline of skilled and credentialed workers. Partners include Goodwin College, a local academic institution, Pratt & Whitney, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology and the International Association of Machinists. Beginning in March of 2013, Goodwin College began its "Certified Production Technician (CPT) Program" to credential students based on industry-defined, nationally validated standards. The program has already graduated eight students and will continue further the careers of students and workers in East Hartford and across Connecticut in the coming months.

In addition, two weeks ago Pratt & Whitney announced a \$500 million investment in the State of Connecticut. As part of the investment, Pratt plans to build a new world-class engineering facility in East Hartford, renovate and expand the United Technologies Research Center and build a state of the art global headquarters. Their investment is another symbol of the unique partnerships in East Hartford.

The partnership cultivated in East Hartford is training the future of Connecticut's workforce. I would be extremely privileged to have you visit my town and the State of Connecticut and showcase this critical, innovative partnership as you continue efforts to ensure effective workforce training across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marcia Leclerc", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marcia Leclerc
Mayor, Town of East Hartford

cc: Governor Dannel P. Malloy
U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy
Congressman John B. Larson
State Senator Gary LeBeau
State Representative Henry Genga
State Representative Timothy Larson
State Representative Jason Rojas
Chairman Richard Kehoe, East Hartford Town Council